

Good News Daily

Sunday, October 4

1 Corinthians 2:6-16 *But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.* (v.16b NLT)

What we truly think and believe reveals itself in our words, actions, and relationships. What am I thinking and saying inside my own head and thoughts? What are you thinking? How am I praying? How are you praying?

I can look at the glass as half full or half empty. I actually choose which way to view it! Jesus came to set me free from negative thought patterns. I am no longer a slave to unhelpful and destructive thinking or thoughts. I can “take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

I am able to think, speak, and prayer according to what Christ has given me—his thoughts that are holy and pleasing to the Father. My part is to choose to follow that line of thought. It’s a choice. I am free to decide my thoughts, actions, and prayers. Thank you, Jesus!

Hosea 13:4-14; Psalm 118; Matthew 14:1-12

Monday, October 5

Psalm 106:1-18 *Blessed are those who always do what is fair. Blessed are those who keep doing what is right.* (v.3 NIRV)

My six-year-old grandson likes board games only if he wins! Sometimes, if his game piece is sent backward or he loses a turn, he gets upset. Then, when he gets to send another player’s piece backwards or loses a turn, he calls it payback. We are trying to teach him it is all just part of the game. We want him to be a gracious whether he wins or loses.

Have you ever wanted to get even with someone or exact revenge on them? It is easy to want to pay back someone insult for insult or

injury for injury. In our hearts we know this is not what Jesus wants us to do. He wants us to do the right thing. Forgive. Overlook. Be gracious. This can be hard. Let’s keep doing what is fair and right. Even when it is hard.

Hosea 14:1-9; Acts 22:30—23:11; Luke 6:39-49

Tuesday, October 6

Luke 7:1-17 *When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. “Don’t cry!” he said.* (v.13 NLT)

As a woman and a mother, this story about the widow of Nain is very special to me. This woman most likely relied on her only son as a means for living. Now, she had no husband or son to provide for her financially or protect her. She was grieving and showing emotion with her tears. Culturally, she or those with her, may have been wailing loudly and lamenting her loss.

Sometimes it is hard for others, especially men, to understand a woman’s emotions and loss. Not only does Jesus seek her out first, but “his heart overflowed with compassion.” Without knowing her, or a word spoken between them, Jesus understood her. He knew her pain. He understood her emotions. He even raised her dead son to life.

What situation are you dealing with that others may not understand? Jesus understands, and his heart overflows with compassion for you. Thank you, Jesus, for knowing us intimately and having compassion on us when we need it most.

Micah 1:1-9; Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123; Acts 23:12-24

Wednesday, October 7

Acts 23:23-35 *Then he summoned two of his captains and said to them, “I want you to take Paul by horseback to Caesarea tonight at nine o’clock. Dispatch two hundred infantrymen, seventy horsemen, and another two hundred*

spearmen to provide security and deliver him safely to Governor Felix.” (vv.23-24 TPT)

The Roman Commander in this story went to great lengths to make sure Paul was safe. And Paul was a prisoner! Paul had an entourage of almost five hundred people accompanying him as he awaited trial.

Only God could orchestrate something like this. Even as a prisoner, God’s favor and protection was upon Paul. He arranged the circumstances so Paul would get to where God wanted him to be. Sometimes we wonder when things are going wrong in our life, if God can get us where we need to be. Clearly when God has a plan and a purpose, He will go to great lengths to see it accomplished. “What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open” (Revelation 3:7b).

We serve a mighty God who does wondrous things. He will accomplish all that concerns us. Praise to our Sovereign God!

Micah 2:1-13; Psalm 119:145-176; Luke 7:18-

35

Thursday, October 8

Micah 3:1-8 *The Spirit of the LORD has filled me with power. He helps me do what is fair. He makes me brave. Now I’m prepared to tell Jacob’s people what they’ve done wrong. I’m ready to tell Israel they’ve sinned.* (v.8 NIRV)

I’m the type of person who prefers not to deal with confrontation. I am uncomfortable saying things that may be truthful but have potential to hurt another person’s feelings. It is difficult for me to say things that are hard, even when I know that might be best.

This verse makes me wonder if perhaps the prophet Micah also felt this way. God had spoken some harsh words and truth about His people. In turn, God expected Micah to tell the people of Israel that they had sinned. I’m pretty certain it was news they did not want to hear.

Micah gives us directions on how he prepared himself. He looked to the Holy Spirit for power. Then, he affirmed God is helping him and supplying the bravery to do it. May I be so confident the next time I have to speak a hard truth.

Psalms 131, 132, 133; Acts 24:1-23; Luke 7:36-50

Friday, October 9

Luke 8:1-15 *Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, preaching and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him, along with some women... and many others who were contributing from their own resources to support Jesus and his disciples. (vv.1-3 NLT)*

Do you know what your spiritual gift is? Have you ever envied someone else's spiritual gift? Maybe you have thought certain spiritual gifts were more important than your own. I have thought this a few times.

These verses encourage me regarding spiritual gifts and callings. Jesus surrounded himself with men and women and people of different socio-economic classes. Each person was valuable. Jesus was not a respecter of persons. He didn't exclude people because of gender or on the basis of wealth.

Each person's contribution was important and needed. Jesus knew this. He wants us to know it too. We can be confident in the gifts he has given us. He wants us to know there is more than one way to serve and support him in kingdom work. Let us serve him wholeheartedly.

Micah 3:9—4:5; Psalms 140, 142; Acts 24:24—25:12

Saturday, October 10

Micah 5:1-4, 10-15 *That promised son will stand firm and be a shepherd for his flock. The LORD*

will give him the strength to do it. The LORD his God will give him the authority to rule. His people will live safely. His greatness will reach from one end of the earth to the other. (v.4 NIRV)

I am probably in the minority, but I truly enjoy reading the Old Testament. I love that it is filled with prophecies about the coming of Jesus Christ. This is one of those prophecies.

This verse is filled with information about qualities the Savior of the world would have. He would be like a shepherd, caring for his people. That means me and you. God would enable him. He would have God given authority. His people would have the ability to live in safety. His Name would be great. All these things came true.

These verses encourage me to trust God. He reminds me that what He promises, He will do. Like Jesus, I am given strength and authority. I can live safely and in peace with God because of Christ's death and resurrection.

And more than two thousand years later people all over the world have heard of the name of Jesus. Truly, his name and greatness are known everywhere.

Psalms 137, 144; Acts 25:13-27; Luke 8:16-25

by Pamela Newton

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Good News Daily

Sunday, October 11

Micah 6:1-8 *He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?* (v.8 RSV)

The command is unmistakable, and noble. But to do it, to actually do this—how? That is the question. The answer lies in a one-liner from First John: “We love, because he first loved us” (4:19). Doing the right things—doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God—these are fruits from a root.

When you feel loved, and *are* loved, it comes naturally to “do the right thing,” i.e., to live altruistically and ethically. In fact, when you are working from love, it seems like no effort at all to love another person. It comes naturally. Doing right is best when it’s a response.

Aretha Franklin sang, “Do right, man. Do right, woman.” It’s easy when you’re loved.

Dear Lord, bring love into our life.
Psalms 146, 147; 1 Corinthians 4:9-16; Matthew 15:21-28

Monday, October 12

Psalms 1 *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.* (vv.1, 3)

When my wife’s father died, the minister said of him to the packed congregation in the church, “Your father was the most trusted man in West Orange County.”

In the context of *real life*—vs. the hollow and often false encomiums one hears at “celebrations of life”—the minister’s words about Mary’s dad were the highest possible praise of a very good man.

Who doesn’t want to live “like a tree planted by streams of water”? What sometimes prevents us doing so is that we are not very securely planted. Our foundations are weak—or weakened. And it takes just one real gust of wind to knock us over.

Lord, re-build our foundations where they are weak, and strengthen them.

Micah 7:1-7; Psalms 2, 3; Acts 26:1-23; Luke 8:26-39

Tuesday, October 13

Acts 26:24—27:8 *And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time you think to make me a Christian!” And Paul said, “Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.”* (vv.28-29)

Who wouldn’t be moved by Paul’s appeal here? He *longs* for the welfare of his hearers, high and low, mighty and weak. The only thing he wants them *not* to get is the chains with which he is bound—his persecuted “lot” in life as an apostle of the Lord.

Paul’s appeal must have gotten through to some, at least, of his hearers. Just reading it to myself, I feel stirred.

Here’s a lesson for us in evangelism. If you truly desire the good of your hearers and your potential hearers, that is going to come through. Sincerity and love *never* miss their mark.

Lord, give us heart for those we love whom we would win.

Jonah 1:1-17a; Psalm 5, 6; Luke 8:40-56

Wednesday, October 14

Luke 9:1-17 *And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal.* (vv.1-2)

Authority over demons!?! I’ve got mine. Maybe you’ve got yours.

I used to detest the judgment on someone as in “she is wrestling with her demons.” I thought that was too strong a way to describe an inward problem. And awfully hopeless. After all, who can really hope, in our natural self, to vanquish a *bona fide* demon?

But, we do “wrestle not against flesh and blood, but with principalities and powers” (Ephesians 6:12). Whether we like it or not, there are malicious forces against us and outside us that threaten to undo us.

I am extremely glad that Christ gave his disciples *authority over all demons*. Now... name it and claim it.

Lord, give us (again) Your authority over our demons.

Jonah 1:17—2:10; Psalm 119:1-24; Acts 27:9-26

Thursday, October 15

Luke 9:18-27 *“For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it.”* (v.24)

I’ve heard this almost all my life, that in order to get life, or true life, I am somehow required to lose life, which is “my” life and my ends. It has always sounded somewhat threatening, as in, “I like my life, or think I do. So why am I being asked to lay it down?” (Sounds masochistic.)

In other words, I questioned the Lord’s indicative. *Until* I lost it, that is! What I mean is, at a certain point I had no choice but to accept losing what I believed was my life and my prerogatives. Whether through its being taken away, or through punishment, almost everyone loses what they thought was important—at some time or another. (Say it isn’t so. But it is.)

After I actually lost my life—in the sense of vocation, resources, and friendships—well,

then Christ's words made sense. It was as if what I should have known before it happened, became true in hindsight.

Dear Lord, prepare us *now* to lose what we're going to have to lose anyway.

Jonah 3:1—4:11; Psalm 18:1-20; Acts 27:27-44

Friday, October 16

Luke 9:28-36 *And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him!"* (v.35)

To whom do you listen in your daily routine? NPR? The Drudge Report? Your husband? Your daughter? The Cooking Channel? Your endless texts?

This is important to ask, because the people you listen to have a big effect on your life. You start to see your life through *their* eyes. And they don't always have your best interests at heart. (Maybe they sort of do, but sometimes they have their own agenda going into it.)

Up on the mountain, God spoke to Peter, James, and John, and told them to listen to Jesus. God was very specific, and personal.

And I don't really want to listen to anybody else—if it's important—other than God. That is because He knows me, but He also loves me.

Lord, help us listen to the voices of the people and of the One who have our best interests at heart.

Song of Solomon 1:2-8; Psalms 16, 17; Acts 28:1-16

Saturday, October 17

Luke 9:37-50 *While he was coming, the demon tore him and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.* (v.42)

No one could do what Christ could do. At least in this report, for his disciples were unable to help a possessed child until Jesus himself came

down, drew out by his sheer presence the demonic spirit (like snake venom), rebuked the spirit, and then gave the child, now peaceful and healed, back to his father.

This is stunning and applies to us. I see demon-possession all the time, though it is not always of the "Amityville Horror" sort. It can be chronic depression, completely engrossing resentment, overwhelming jealousy. Whatever name we give it and whatever form it takes, possession by a bad spirit literally stops your life in its tracks. It is actually possible to be in a state of arrested development over some past emotional wound *for the whole rest of your life*.

Come to Christ, sincerely and with the best account you can give of your paralysis, and he *will* rebuke it. The secret probably lies in the desiring to be cured.

Lord Jesus, incentivize us to come to you when we are being throttled by forces bigger than we.

Song of Solomon 1:9—2:7; Psalms 20, 21; Acts 28:17-31

by Paul Zahl

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Good News Daily

Sunday, October 18

Psalm 148 *Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths.* (v.7 NIV)

A *San Francisco Chronicle* front page story told of a humpback whale trapped in a web of hundreds of pounds of crab traps and lines, struggling to stay afloat.

Divers, working for hours with curved knives, untangled her. When free, incredibly she swam in joyous circles, returning to every diver, nudging and gently pushing. The diver cutting the lines from her mouth said her eye followed him the whole time and he will never be the same.

As one once tangled up in lines and traps, when the Lord cut lines binding me, I was free to be quiet and stand aside. He continues in this lifetime project. "Praise the LORD from the heavens... Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts... Let them praise the name of the LORD" (vv.1a, 2, 5a).

Song of Solomon 2:8-17; Psalms 149, 150; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Matthew 16:13-20

Monday, October 19

Psalm 25 *My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare.* (v.15)

My friend was in distress. Some years ago, she exchanged hurtful words in conversation with a woman. She said she carried these hurtful words around and although this woman moved away, the hurting memory became a fixture. My friend is a godly woman. We prayed our Lord would help her find this woman and be present when she did. Later, she stopped in a remote store for shoe polish and, as she turned down an aisle, the very same woman came towards her, arms outstretched. They spent an hour in mutual forgiveness and will never be the same.

How many times does our Lord have to reveal Himself before we realize how close He really is?

Song of Solomon 4:1—5:1; Revelation 7:1-8; Luke 9:51-62

Tuesday, October 20

Psalm 28 *Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.* (v.9)

This Scripture brings to mind the death of my father. One morning, while walking for his paper, he fell. A stranger helped him home. "It was an angel," said Mom. "We know everybody, and this was a stranger."

The family gathered as he lost his ability to move. One muscle which continued on was the kissing muscle. Mom kissed him frequently, and he would fervently return her kisses. For three days we surrounded him singing hymns. The hospital staff didn't try to keep us quiet (it's a small town). Dad showed us the way, kissing and loving as usual until the very end, passing on the Lord's inheritance.

The late Rev. Canon Jim Glennon wrote, "Death is not the enemy; God's last and greatest gift to us is that of going to be with Him in the grace of Christ and the comfort of the Holy Spirit."

Song of Solomon 5:2—6:3; Psalm 26; Revelation 7:9-17; Luke 10:1-16

Wednesday, October 21

Luke 10:17-24 *At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children."* (v.21a)

An email arrived from *Pilots for Christ*, through my favorite pilot, Jim. A man was on a long flight when a huge storm broke. Turbulence

lifted the plane on terrific currents and then dropped it as if to crash. Alarm and fear reigned. He noticed a little girl, however, who was completely calm. Fear was not in her world. When they finally reached their destination, he asked why she had not been afraid. She answered, "Because my Daddy's the pilot and he's taking me home."

Don Scott wrote in an issue of *Sharing*: "The needy, the Harvest, are all around us, even on planes. Jesus places them on the path in front or beside us wherever we are. He plans and books the appointments and He guides and directs what we say and do—and He changes lives."

Song of Solomon 8:5-14; Psalm 38; Revelation 8:1-13

Thursday, October 22

Luke 10:25-37 *But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"* (v.29)

My young neighbors had never mentioned their faith. Like the priest and the Levite, I was definitely stepping around them when it came to mentioning my Lord Jesus. Unexpectedly, they announced a transfer to Seattle, a special city to me. I knew St. Luke's Church there was the base for the late Fr. Dennis Bennett's ministry, influencing people nationally.

While kneeling at the Eucharist, this couple came to mind, so I knew "passing on the other side" was not acceptable. I recommended St. Luke's and gave them a copy of Fr. Bennett's book, *Nine O'clock In The Morning*. I can't say I inspired them, but I know without a doubt this was a seed for someone, sometime. Many times, I have stumbled on a neighborly note or prayer in an old chest or book which was just the ticket for the day's need.

Esther 1:1-4, 9-12, 16-22; Psalm 37:1-18; Revelation 9:1-12

Friday, October 23

Esther 2:1-11 *This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.* (v.7b)

When turmoil and trouble come for prayer, I sometimes wonder how the Lord could possibly use me. Is that what Esther (Hadassah) thought as she listened to Mordecai's instructions? One simple, young, orphaned girl became King Xerxes' Queen, placing her in line to save the Jewish nation.

At such a time, Fr. Al Durrance advised us to ask the Lord *how* to pray, to sit quietly, offering up the situation to our Lord, waiting on Him. Why am I amazed, when just the right response comes to mind as He demonstrates the Holy Spirit at work?

“And Mordecai said... the little spring that became a river, the light that shone, the sun, Esther is the river...” (Esther 10:6, *The Jerusalem Bible*).

Psalm 31; Revelation 9:13-21; Luke 10:38-42

Saturday, October 24

Psalm 30 *You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.* (v.11)

Aborigines in Australia have a practice of “pointing the bone.” It is greatly feared when one is on the receiving end of this pointing, since death seems to occur frequently thereafter. Sometimes we “point the bone” at ourselves, repeatedly saying, “I have cancer, I have arthritis,” etc., until it becomes our identity.

I am learning, instead, to claim the promises of Christ. For example: “I have Jesus.” This points the healing cross of Christ directly inward, becoming the powerful essence of our being by repeating the words consistently, thus sealing ourselves with him, with his glorious presence, in every cell and bone.

“We are not like so many ripe apples in a tree waiting for some Herod to come along and shake us out. No, we are absolutely secure, for we have invested our lives in Jesus Christ” (The Very Rev. Richard Lobs, III).

Esther 2:12-23; Psalm 32; Revelation 10:1-11;
Luke 11:1-13

by Doris Matthews

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Good News Daily

Sunday, October 25

Psalm 63 *I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.* (vv.4-5 NIV)

Don't you love the psalms of David? He lifts his hands in praise to the Lord even while being chased in the wilderness. I close my eyes and turn my face heavenward; however, I must admit I seldom lift my hands in praise. I must feel God's presence and power before physically doing this act. More often, I tend to follow the lead of others in the church I attend. But when I feel the outpouring of the Holy Spirit permeating my soul, I raise my hands in praise to the only one who matters.

I've attended churches so quiet you dare not breathe, and mega-churches where everyone raises hands and sends sidelong glances of condemnation if you're not doing the same. My study Bible says that raising our hands to the Lord is an acknowledgment of His power, wonder, and majesty. Let's release the Spirit within us and praise the Lord, whichever way we're led.

Esther 3:1-15; Psalm 98; 1 Corinthians 10:15-24; Matthew 18:15-20

Monday, October 26

Luke 11:14-26 *Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed.* (v.14)

The mere mention of demons gives me the shivers. Specifically, Beelzebub, the prince of demons, better known as Satan; however, demons are mentioned throughout the Bible.

Many years ago, my mom was given a Ouija board. Some say it's an innocent board game, fun at gatherings—most disagree when the

potential dangers are recognized. Mom became so caught up in this game that it resulted in Dad believing she was possessed by an evil spirit and the subsequent burning of the board.

Our demon can be anything that controls our mind and omits God from our lives. In this fast-paced world of social networking, we can easily become obsessed. Deuteronomy 8:19 says, "If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed." Whether it's Twittering, blogging, or texting, let's not forget our Lord. A Bible app is a good way to keep the Lord in your thoughts. Don't let your demon take over.

Esther 4:1-17; Psalms 41, 52; Revelation 11:1-14

Tuesday, October 27

Esther 5:1-14 *"If it pleases the king," replied Esther, "let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him."* (v.4)

I once lived in an apartment building inhabited by college students. Like King Xerxes, whose parties lasted for days, they too loved to "wine and dine" and loud parties were the norm.

The Book of Esther could very well be called the Party Book of the Bible. Banquets and celebrations are mentioned numerous times and for various reasons. For instance, while King Xerxes didn't require a reason to party, Haman wanted to boast of his accomplishments to his wife and friends. On the other hand, Esther had an ulterior motive—to save the Jewish people—her people. Did she throw the first banquet simply to invite the king to a second banquet, or did fear prevent her from speaking her petition? Esther didn't want to offer a banquet, but she did. God used Esther to save the Jewish race from annihilation and her obedience to God's will allowed her to overcome her fear. The Book of

Esther teaches us that God uses our lives for good when we obey and trust in Him.

Psalm 45; Revelation 11:14-19; Luke 11:27-36

Wednesday, October 28

Psalm 119:49-72 *Do good to your servant according to your word, O LORD. Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in your commands.* (vv. 65-66)

From the time I was a youngster and throughout my teen years, I remember that each summer Dad would drag an old navy hammock from the shed and tie it with rope between two trees. In those lazy days of summer as a teenager, I loved to lounge in the hammock with a book, usually a historical novel. I was, and still am, an avid reader. However, the Ten Commandments and a number of verses committed to memory from the New Testament were the extent of my Bible reading. I believed there was too much violence in it—at least that's what I told myself. I didn't realize how much history and great stories the Bible held. Now, in my latter years, with so many translations to choose from, I hunger for the knowledge contained in the word of God.

David appealed to God, "Teach me your way, O LORD..." (Psalm 27:11); "...teach me your paths" (Psalm 25:4). In the same manner, I pray to be conformed and taught by the Holy Spirit.

Esther 6:1-13; Revelation 12:1-6; Luke 11:37-52

Thursday, October 29

Revelation 12:7-17 *They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.* (v.11)

What drama! The war in heaven—Michael and angels vs. the dragon, and angels hurling Satan and his angels from heaven to earth. Don't you love a good drama when the good guys win?

Knott's Berry Farm had a drama that required audience participation. Cue cards encouraged applause, cheers, and booing. Actors portrayed a villain, damsel in distress, and hero. The tinny sounds of a player-piano resonated. Our youngest son immersed himself in loud, enthusiastic participation which included cupping his hands to his mouth.

Imagine the cheering that took place in heaven during the greatest period of spiritual warfare. The rejoicing must have been deafening. Of course, to visualize the scene you must read the entire chapter. "The dragon stood in front of the women who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born" (v.4); "her child was snatched up to God" (v.5); "there was war in heaven" (v.7); and the cliffhanger, "the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus" (v.17).

Esther 6:14—7:10; Psalm 50; Luke 11:53—
12:12

Friday, October 30

Luke 12:13-31 *Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes."* (vv.22-23)

"Do not worry." I wonder if Jesus' disciples heeded those words. I know from experiencing life for 70+ years that worry accounts for many gray hairs. "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" (v.25). How many times have I asked myself this very question? "O you of little faith!" (v.28). Yes, that's what Jesus said: *faith*. Worry shows lack of faith in God's plan for our lives. The Lord knows our problems and provides what we need in his time.

Maybe Jesus was referring to possessions more than problems. He spoke of God's judgment on selfishness and said that earthly wealth is temporary and worthless in the end. He's trying to tell us that when we're consumed with possessions there is little room left for God in our hearts. "But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well" (v.31).

Things that were difficult when I was younger are now simpler. Trust and faith equals no worry.

Esther 8:1-17; Psalms 40, 54; Revelation 13:1-
10

Saturday, October 31

Psalm 55 *If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him. But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God.* (vv.12-14)

If you've ever had a friend turn against you, you can certainly empathize with King David. Perhaps that friend is from church or your workplace. As a result, others are taking sides. Your anger and pain are real, and you cry out to God. "My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught at the voice of the enemy..." (vv.2b-3a).

David called for God's judgment—not against his friend, but against the wicked. He knew that judgment and revenge are in God's hands. Over and over, David expressed discouragement and disappointment, sadness and hurt. Nevertheless, he continued to remind himself of all God had done for him and of God's faithfulness.

"Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall" (v.22). Let's remember in our own times of pain

and discouragement that the Lord is our one true friend. He will never turn against us.

Ezekiel 20:1-17; Revelation 13:11-18; Luke
12:32-48

by Shirley J. Conley

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